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BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1946.

List of Parishes in the Council's Area.

Addington	Marsh Gibbon
Adstock	Middle Claydon
Akeley	Padbury
Barton Hartshorne	Poundon
Beachampton	Preston Bissett
Billesden	Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Charndon	Shalstone
Chetwode	Steeple Claydon
Edgcott	Stowe
Foscott	Thornborough
Hillesden	Thornton
Leckhampstead	Tingewick
Lillingstone Dayrell	Turweston
Lillingstone Lovell	Twyford
Luffield Abbey	Water Stratford
Maids Moreton	Westbury

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SCHOOL LANE,

BUCKINGHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1946, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46.

D. H. WALDRON.

A. Summary of Statistics.

	1946	1945
Area (in acres)	54,543	54,543
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)...	7641	7833
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of year)	2626	
Rateable Value	£33,353	£35,530
Rate per £	15/7 $\frac{1}{4}$	11/7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sum represented by a penny rate (gross) ...	£131/1/2	£140/19/11

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births:	M.	F.		
Legitimate	68	59	127	131
Illegitimate	6	6	12	12
Birth-rate per 1,000 population			18.1	18.26
" " " (Bucks)			18.6	16.5
" " " (England & Wales)			19.1	16.56
Still-Births	M.	F.		
Deaths	3	2	5	3
Deaths per 1,000 population	54	49	103	102
" " " (Bucks)			13.4	12.05
" " " (England & Wales)			10.5	11
" " " from Puerperal Causes			11.5	11.4
Maternal Mortality				
" " (England & Wales)			1.06	1.79
Infantile Mortality Rate:				
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				
per 1,000 live births			35.9	20.9
Ditto for Bucks			30.1	32.9
Ditto for England & Wales			43	46
Deaths from Measles			Nil	Nil
" Whooping Cough			"	"
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			"	"

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:	1946			1945		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza				2		2
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	1	3		2	2
Other Tuberculosis	1		1			
Cancer	13	8	21	6	8	14
Diabetes		1	1		1	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage	5	14	19	8	10	18
Heart Disease	14	6	20	14	16	30
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2		2	2	3	5
Bronchitis	2	2	4	4	3	7
Pneumonia	3		3	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1	2		1	1
Digestive Diseases		1	1	3	1	4
Nephritis	2	1	3		1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia & Fever ...						
Congenital Causes	2	2	4			
Violence	4	2	6	6		6
All other Causes	3	9	12		6	6
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	54	48	102	48	54	102
	—	—	—	—	—	—

There has been no increase in death-rate, but a rise in the Infantile Mortality, but the latter figure is still well below that for England and Wales.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The majority of the inhabitants of the area have been engaged in agricultural work. The manufacture of paint and footwear has been carried out in Westbury, but the only large industry was the London Brick Company at Calvert. There has been no evidence that these pursuits have affected the health of the general population, although the "drawers" in the brick industry have an increased susceptibility to respiratory disease, mainly as a result of changes in temperature in the course of their work.

B. General Provision of Health Services.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman of the District Council—W. Culley, Esq.

Chairman of General Purposes Committee—D. R. James, Esq.

Committee—

Mr. A. Shaw, Mr. J. Culley, Col. R. L. Agnew, Major J. D. Young, Hon. Mrs. M. Fortescue, Hon. Mrs. Heywood-Lonsdale, Miss H. M. Hubbard, Mr. A. J. Rawlings, Hon. A. E. Cubitt, Mr. A. T. Thorne, Mr. F. H. Dancer, Mr. A. Powell, Mrs. H. E. Lines, Mr. G. H. Stevens, Mr. W. G. Beckett, Mr. W. Durrant.

Messrs. W. Culley and A. E. Bryant, *ex-officios*.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

A. Michael Critchley, M.D., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for the Buckingham M.B. and Bletchley U.D.C. and Assistant County Medical Officer for Bucks C.C.

Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor).

F. T. Jennings, A.R.SAN.I., A.I.S.E., A.Inst.B.E.

3. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangement made with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service for the School of Pathology, Oxford, to perform pathological investigations continued.

4. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

(a) *Infectious Diseases.*—The ambulance belonging to the North Bucks Joint Isolation Board conveyed infectious cases to the Fever Hospital at Grove.

(b) *Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents*—The St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Ambulance stationed at Buckingham has dealt with the needs of the district in a most conscientious manner.

5. NURSING FACILITIES.

There were seven District Nurses working in the Buckingham Rural District.

6. CLINICS.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare.*—Buckingham Rural District has been without sufficient Clinics, but this shortage has been gradually lessened, so that the District was served during 1946 by the following clinics :—

Buckingham (once monthly)	...	M.O., Dr. A. M. Critchley
Calvert (twice monthly)	...	Dr. Doris Critchley
Twyford (" ")	...	
Winslow (" ")	...	Dr. A. M. Critchley

The Medical Officer attended each clinic once monthly and the clinics have been well supported, thanks to the enthusiasm of the helpers. Steps are being taken to set up other clinics in the district for the above clinics are not easily accessible from many villages.

(b) *Immunisation Clinics.*—Immunisation against Diphtheria has been carried out at the above clinics, but in addition a special monthly session has been held at the Bucks C.C. clinic, 19, Stratford Road, Buckingham.

(c) *Venereal Disease.*—Cases of venereal disease in the District have received treatment at the Government clinics in Oxford, Northampton and Aylesbury.

7. HOSPITALS.

(a) *Infectious Diseases.*—The North Bucks Joint Isolation Hospital has accepted infectious cases from the area, but great difficulties have been encountered owing to the shortage of staff. Fortunately there have been no severe epidemics in North Bucks, so that the hospital has not been unduly pressed for beds, otherwise the situation would have been serious.

(b) *Tuberculosis.*—Tuberculosis cases from the Buckingham Rural District have been treated at the Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard. The natural shortage of nursing staff has created many difficulties in tuberculosis schemes throughout the kingdom.

(c) *General Hospitals.*—Voluntary hospitals which served the area were as follows:—

Buckingham Hospital.
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
Northampton General Hospital.
National Heart Hospital.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

The Bucks Water Board supplied every parish with water, but distribution to each individual dwelling in the area has not been completed.

(a) *Quality.*—Satisfactory.

(b) *Quantity.*—Steps have been taken by the Water Board to obtain additional sources of water in order to increase the supply which did not suffice for the ever-expanding demand.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

All the water courses in the district have been constantly polluted and, especially during the dry spells, were a potential danger to health.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The much abused English climate has again saved the district from a major fly-born epidemic. In common with most other rural areas this district abounded with organic accumulations ideal for the breeding of flies and germs, but fortunately climatic conditions have been adverse for their development, otherwise disease was inevitable.

Prior to the war steps were being taken in England to bring improved living conditions to the rural regions by the inauguration of water and sewerage schemes. In this district the water scheme has been well advanced, but the much-needed sewerage plans have been held in abeyance. The situation in 1946 was as follows:—

(a) *Sewerage Schemes in actual operation.*—Chackmore, Steeple Claydon, Westbury and Marsh Gibbon.

(b) *Schemes sanctioned and authority given to proceed.*—Thornborough and Tingewick. In the case of the latter a tender had been accepted, but the Ministry of Health were unable to authorize an earlier start than March, 1947, owing to shortage of labour.

(c) *Schemes approved by the Ministry of Health.*—Akeley and Padbury.

(d) *Schemes prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health.*—Charndon, Twyford, Adstock and Marsh Gibbon.

(e) *Instructions given to Consulting Engineers to make surveys with a view to preparation of Schemes.*—Beachampton, Edgcott, Maids Moreton, Preston Bissett, Shalstone, Water Stratford and Westbury.

4. WATER CLOSETS.

Progress in conversion to water closets has been delayed by the inadequacy of the sewerage system in most parishes.

5. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Quarterly collections of rubbish and salvage have been made and controlled tips have been in constant use at Steeple Claydon and Leckhampstead. Steps are being taken for the purchase of a Refuse Collection Vehicle, with a view to increased collection. Negotiations are in hand to acquire a new site for controlled tipping.

6. SCHOOLS.

Neglect prior to and during the war has resulted in some Village Schools becoming insanitary. The lavatory accommodation in many schools was so bad as to be a potential danger.

7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There were no public swimming baths in the district.

8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action taken during 1946.

D. Housing.

The country-wide shortage of fit houses has not missed this district. Many dwellings which warrant demolition or extensive re-conditioning have been in continual occupation owing to the lack of alternative accommodation. Houses of all types have become a necessity in order to cater for overcrowded or slum tenants, newly-weds or small families and last, but not least, the aged.

Of the eight housing schemes, covering 73 houses, under the first building programme, progress was made on six sites but no houses were completed by the end of the year.

In the second building programme six schemes were proposed to provide 53 houses and tenders were to be invited in the early part of 1947.

In so far as temporary houses are concerned, work was commenced on the erection of 10 at Steeple Claydon and 10 at Tingewick. Four houses were completed and occupied by the end of the year.

A scheme for the erection of a further 29 temporary houses at Steeple Claydon for brickworkers was proposed and this was approved. Additional advanced preparation of the site at Steeple Claydon was necessary for the further 29 temporary houses.

Tenders were invited for the erection of 16 *Airey Type* houses at Steeple Claydon.

E. Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

I beg herewith to submit a brief report of the work carried out by my Department during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

General Survey of Inspections during Year.

Total number of Inspections made	..	...	2140
Premises inspected on complaint	...	...	68
Dwelling Houses under periodical review	...	...	Nil
Visits paid to houses under Public Health Acts	..	...	18
Visits paid to Houses under Housing Acts	...	...	25
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	12
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supply	...	...	24
Visits <i>re</i> Drainage	...	...	30

Visits <i>re</i> Refuse Collection	...	...	...	48
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	210
Evacuation	...	...	...	18
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	20
Petroleum Acts, visits, etc.	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous Housing	...	...	...	201
Visits <i>re</i> Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	48
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	101
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	47
Visits in connection with Bye-Laws	...	...	...	22
Schools	...	...	...	6
Factories	...	...	...	14
Visits regarding Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	16
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	24
Fishmongers	...	...	...	6
Visits paid to work in progress	...	...	...	51
Meetings, Conferences, etc., attended	...	...	...	108

Notices Served.

(1) Informal Notices	...	...	...	19
(2) Matters remedied as a result of (1)	...	...	...	19
(3) Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Reported to Council	...	...	...	Nil

Details of Nuisances abated.

Overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	3
Foul Ditches, Ponds, etc.	...	...	...	18
Animals	...	...	...	Nil
Dampness	...	...	...	6
Premises generally	...	...	...	36

Drains and Sewerage.

Water Closets substituted for pails or privies	...	...	...	12
Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	...	...	...	42
Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	...	...	...	52
Waste-pipes, f.w. pipes, disconnected, repaired	...	...	...	8
New soil pipes, vent, shafts, fixed	...	...	...	4
Existing soil pipes or vent pipes repaired	...	...	...	4

Water Supply.

Samples obtained for Analysis	...	...	...	4
Result of above Samples	Good, Nil ;	Bad	4	
Action taken in above—Installation of piped supply	...	...	...	2

Bakehouses.

Number on Register	...	...	...	11
Underground Bakehouses	...	...	...	Nil

Cowsheds.

Producers on Register	...	...	...	320
Inspections	...	...	...	60
Contraventions of Regulations	...	...	...	20
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	20
Improvements to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	10

Unsound Food.

Miscellaneous Food Visits 30
 MEAT.—No record as all animals are now slaughtered in the
 Government Slaughterhouse in the Borough of
 Buckingham.
 Approx. weight of food condemned and destroyed .. 120 lbs.

Disinfections.

Rooms disinfected :

(a) After ordinary Infectious Diseases	...	7
(b) After Tuberculosis		Nil
(c) Rooms stripped and cleansed		2

F. T. JENNINGS,
Sanitary Inspector.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.**1. GENERAL.**

During the year there have not been any outbreaks of Measles, Whooping Cough or Dysentery.

2. NOTIFICATIONS.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Measles	1		1
Pneumonia	2		2
Scarlet Fever	4		4
Typhoid Fever	1	1	2

3. CANCER.

Twenty-one deaths were caused by this Disease.

4. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

5. TUBERCULOSIS.

Three persons have died from phthisis.

There has been one case of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and none of non-pulmonary.

A. M. CRITCHLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

